

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 AID-10 PM-03 L-02 OMB-01 EUR-10

DPW-01 DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01 /081 W

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R 181313 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3372

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10923

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, JUNE 18

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON JUN 18 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON INFO CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON USSAG TRAFB
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0619

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, JUNE 18

1. SECURITY SITUATION: COASTAL MR 2 HAS BEEN RELATIVELY PEACEFUL
SINCE CEASE- FIRE II WENT INTO EFFECT JUNE 15, BUT HIGH LEVEL OF
MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN KONTUM. TOTAL OF ONLY TEN INCIDENTS
REPORTED BY MR 2 OPERATIONS CENTER FOR PAST 24- HOUR PERIOD
PROBABLY
GIVES ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE VERY LIGHT ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT MOST
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OF REGION, BUT DEFINITELY UNDER- REPRESENTS FIGHTING AROUND KONTUM CITY. FIVE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN KONTUM ACCORDING TO REPORT, AND TWO EACH IN COASTAL PROVINCES OF BINH DINH, NINH THUAN, AND BINH THUAN. INCIDENTS INCLUDED: FIVE VC/ NVA MININGS, THREE VC/ NVA ATTACKS BY FIRE, ONE VC/ NVA GROUND ATTACK, AND ONE FIREFIGHT BETWEEN VC AND A PF UNIT ON PATROL. CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT: VC/ NVA: FIVE KIA; RVNAF: TWO KIA, SEVEN WIA, AND FIVE MIA.

2. POLOFF REPORTS THAT ACTIVITY IN KONTUM HAS PICKED UP WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE 2 ND BATTALION OF 45 TH ARVN REGT FROM PLEIKU. THE 2 ND BATTALION HAS RELIEVED SORELY DEPLETED RF UNITS NEAR THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF TRUNG NGHIA AND HAS BEGUN TO ADVANCE TOWARD THAT VILLAGE ALTHOUGH ENCOUNTERING HEAVY RESISTANCE AND ENEMY FIRE. THE BATTALION MADE CONTACT WITH ENEMY SEVERAL TIMES DURING COURSE OF DAY, SUFFERING LIGHT CASUALTIES, AND IS NOW WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE KM OF VILLAGE. THE 1 ST BATTALION OF 44 TH ARVN REGT, MEANWHILE, APPEARS TO HAVE MADE SOME SMALL PROGRESS IN MOVING INTO TRUNG NGHIA FROM THE EAST, ALSO TAKING LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE PROCESS. IN OTHER PARTS OF PROVINCE, RF AND ARVN UNITS CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO TAKE DAK ROCOT VILLAGE (ABOUT SIX KM NORTHEAST OF KONTUM CITY) AND PLEI KLOR HAMLET (ABOUT 12 KM SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY) , BUT NO PROGRESS REPORTED IN EITHER AREA. MR 2 OPERATIONS CENTER REPORTS KONTUM CASUALTY AGGREGATES FOR PERIOD AS ONLY TWO ENEMY KIA, ONE FRIENDLY KIA, THREE WIA AND FIVE MISSING, BUT IT IS PROBABLY THAT SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL LOSSES HAVE GONE UNCOUNTEED.

3. REACTION TO PARIS COMMUNIQUE: A CANADIAN MEMBER OF THE ICCS REGION IV TEAM, MAJOR JOHN HASEK, SAID THAT IT LOOKS AS IF UNCLE SAM GAVE UP MORE THAN HE GOT IN THE JUNE 13 PARIS COMMUNIQUE. HE BELIEVES THAT THE MAIN VALUE OF THE DOCUMENT IS ITS EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION. PHAN THIET COUNCILMAN LE GIAO, OPPOSITIONIST SUPPORTER OF THE " THIRD FORCE" IN BINH THUAN, TOLD POLOFF HE THINKS THE COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTS A DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE US AND NORTH VIET- NAM TO FORCE THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES TO THINK ABOUT PEACE, AND THUS TO DISCOURAGE VIOLATIONS. GIAO NOTED THAT THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN BINH THUAN IS LOWER NOW FOLLOWING CEASE- FIRE II THAN IT WAS IN JANUARY FOLLOWING CEASE- FIRE I, AND ATTRIBUTED THE DIFFERENCE TO THE GREATER RECOGNITION WHICH THE NEW COMMUNIQUE GIVES TO ZONES

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OF CONTROL. ON JUNE 16 ANOTHER COUNCILMAN, NGUYEN HUU LY, EXPRESSED THE VIEW WHICH IS PROBABLY WIDELY SHARED THAT AGREEMENTS AND COMMUNIQUE ARE ALL VERY WELL, BUT WHAT THE PEOPLE WOULD REALLY LIKE IS TO SEE THEM OBSERVED, AND PHAN THIET IS STILL WITHIN EARSHOT OF FIGHTING.

4. ICCS: FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT, A MEMBER OF THE CANDEL HAS INDICATED THAT HE FELT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE CANADIANS MIGHT STAY ON BEYOND JULY 31 UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. MAJOR RATCLIFF SAID AT A RECEPTION JUNE 16 THAT HE BELIEVES CANADA MIGHT STILL BE WILLING TO STAY ON THE ICCS IF THE GVN AND PRG CAN PROMPTLY AGREE TO ELECTION MACHINERY, NOT EVEN THE SETTING OF DATES NECESSARILY, BUT JUST "THE MACHINERY." RATCLIFF WAS DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE DID NOT GO FURTHER INTO SPECIFICS AND ACTUAL DESIGN OF ELECTION MACHINERY.

5. GEN. MCALPINE TOLD CONGEN POLOFF THAT HE DOUBTS MALAYSIANS WOULD MAKE VERY EFFECTIVE ICCS MEMBERS. HE THINKS THE IRISH WOULD BE GOOD (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE IRISH). GEN. MCALPINE ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING THE ICCS TO USE DAK TO AS AN ALTERNATE LANDING AREA TO BEN HET HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. (THIS MATTER WAS AWAITING GUARANTEE OF SOME SORT FROM THE GVN THAT THEY WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE PRG CONTROL OF THE BEN HET- DAK TO ROAD AND WOULD AGREE NOT TO INTERDICT IT.) (NHA TRANG 0534, PARS 5.)

TEAR
WHITEHOUSE

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